

Fighting hunger and poverty in northeast North Carolina

Serving Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington Counties.

Executive Summary

The Food Bank of the Albemarle (FBA) has occupied the Hugh Cale Community Center (HCCC) in partnership with the City of Elizabeth City since 2015. In exchange for utilizing the space for programmatic purposes the FBA agreed to manage the community calendar for the common space (training & board room), provide weekly cleaning in the common areas and reporting any mechanical/maintenance issues to the appropriate city leadership to schedule repairs on the community center. We appreciate the longstanding partnership and trust of the City in our ability to serve as the HCCC lead agency.

As you know, the FBA has been working on an expansion project at our primary location at 109 Tidewater Way in Elizabeth City that will allow us to move our administrative and program staff back to our main facility once the construction was complete. We are happy to report that construction at 109 Tidewater Way will wrap up before Christmas 2022, we are planning to move out of the HCCC the first week of January 2023.

We would like to continue our partnership as lead occupant of the HCCC on a new initiative, called a **Community Hub** that will host a Client Choice Food Pantry.

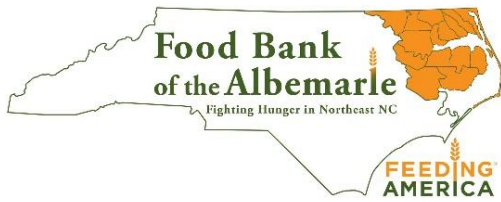
Introduction:

What is a Community Hub? A community hub is a public space that brings several community agencies and neighborhood groups together to offer a range of activities, programs and services.

In partnership with Sentara, FBA is working to develop partnerships and programs that eliminate barriers to food but also give people the dignity of choosing their food while also creating an environment where neighbors can access resources that will improve their overall quality of life. The Community Hub service model integrates collaborative services that will benefit our neighbor's that are specifically struggling with unemployment, housing, and health disparities. The Community Hub

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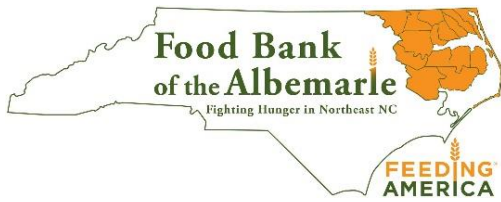
model will be a space where neighbors can come get fresh produce and lean proteins to feed their families and in the same space connect with community collaborators on about:

- Food Stamp enrollment
- Nutrition education that will include demonstrating healthy meal preparation focusing on the available seasonal foods
- Health screening referral opportunities like mammograms, cervical cancer, prostate, oral hygiene, etc.
- Financial literacy
- Legal Aid (Already hosted at the HCCC)
- Housing Counseling
- Child Care & Homework Assistance
- Domestic Violence support
- Mental Health support

In partnership with Sentara Hospital Foundation, the Food Bank proposes that the Hugh Cale Community Center be utilized to host the Community Hub. The physical location of the center provides the perfect space where residents from the neighborhood can walk or bike to the facility. We understand all too well that transportation is the barrier for low to moderate income households. According to Walkscore.com our most walkable Elizabeth City neighborhoods are Sawyertown, Northside, and Hugh Cale which are also the poorest neighborhoods.

The City of Elizabeth City can be a significant partner with us by hosting the Community Hub at the HCCC conveniently located on the line that separates the 1st and 3rd wards and is very close to the 4th ward. Our request to utilize the HCCC requires zero financial support from the City of Elizabeth City and ensures that a key resource center, is utilized for the benefit of the Hugh Cale neighborhood. This project will demonstrate how the public, voluntary, and private commercial sectors can work together

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to deliver effective services to enhance the neighborhood by improving social cohesion, public health and community wellbeing.

Our request to City Council is simple, the Food Bank of the Albemarle requests approval to host the Community Hub at the Hugh Cale Community Center effective January 1, 2023. Assuming transition of 90 – 120 days, the new Community Hub/Client Choice food pantry by spring/early summer of 2023.

I am sharing a few photographs of a Community Hub partnership between the Southeastern Virginia Food Bank, Sentara, and the City of Norfolk. Our team had the opportunity to visit the site in October. I would welcome an opportunity to present our proposal to City Council at the earliest opportunity.

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